



RALLY + RISE ACTION PLAN

New York: Spring Forward with Reproductive Rights

► It's been 48 years since New York updated its restrictive abortion law—take 48 seconds a day to change that. For more information on the current law on the book and how you can get New York to spring forward, visit rallyandrise.org.

MARCH

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Governor Cuomo

(518) 474-8390

SCRIPT

"I'm a concerned New Yorker calling to ask Governor Cuomo to follow through on his promise and remove abortion from the state's penal code as part of the 2019 budget. New York's current, 48-year-old law is unconstitutional, and in the current political climate we can't afford to wait another year for change that protects and respects women and the health-care professionals who serve them. De-criminalizing abortion must be a budget priority for the Governor."

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Senator Flanagan

(631) 361-2154

SCRIPT

"I'm a concerned New Yorker calling to ask Senator Flanagan to remove abortion from the state's penal code as part of the 2019 budget. New York's current, 48-year-old law is unconstitutional, and puts both women and the health-care professionals who serve them at risk. Protecting New Yorkers through this simple change must be a budget priority for the Senator."

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Senator Klein

(718) 822-2049

SCRIPT

"I'm a concerned New Yorker calling to ask Senator Klein to remove abortion from the state's penal code as part of the 2019 budget put forth by Governor Cuomo. New York's current, 48-year-old law is unconstitutional, and in the current political climate we can't afford to wait another year for change that protects and respects women and the health-care professionals who serve them. It's time for the IDC to prove that they can truly make progressive change in our state, and de-criminalizing abortion must be a budget priority for the Senator."

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Assembly Member Heastie

(718) 654-6539

SCRIPT

"I'm a concerned New Yorker calling to ask Assemblymember Heastie to remove abortion from the state's penal code as part of the 2019 budget put forth by Governor Cuomo. New York's current, 48-year-old law is unconstitutional, and in the current political climate we can't afford to wait another year for change that protects and respects women and the health-care professionals who serve them. De-criminalizing abortion must be a budget priority for the Senator."

Everything you need to know about New York's Reproductive Health Act

▶ Reproductive rights have never been more threatened (at least, not in the past 50 years), with both the GOP-led Congress and the Trump administration targeting them. We fear that it's only a matter of time before the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade*, meaning that the ability for a woman to access a safe and legal abortion is then left up to individual states.

We live in New York—so we're safe, right?

▶ You'd think so—but New York hasn't updated its abortion law since 1970! (Quick history check: *Roe v. Wade* was decided in 1973, so NY's law actually predates the seminal court case.) And the law is exactly what you'd expect from something that is 48 years old: It criminalizes abortion, has no exception for the health of the woman or if the fetus is not viable, and only allows doctors (rather than advanced practice clinicians, like nurse practitioners or physician's assistants) to perform abortions.

WTF! That sounds bad.

▶ It is—not only for New Yorkers (where 44% of counties have no abortion clinic), but for women across the country who rely on our state as a reproductive rights haven. In 2014, 12.9% of all

abortions in America were performed in New York; as more and more states pass ultra-restrictive laws, that number could go up. And once *Roe v. Wade* is overturned? New York could be one of the few states that hasn't outright banned abortion. That's why we need to update our law—for New Yorkers, yes, but also for all Americans.

So how do we do that?

▶ It's all about the Reproductive Health Act. This bill would update New York's abortion law, not only bringing it in line with the standard of *Roe v. Wade*, but also expanding it.

How, exactly?

▶ It would codify in New York the protections currently recognized by the US Supreme Court, treat abortion as health care (instead of as a criminal act), protect health care providers who perform these vital services, and enshrine the constitutional standard that women can access abortion care throughout pregnancy when her health or life is at risk or the fetus is not viable. Ultimately, it affirms that it's a fundamental right for a woman to have control over her own body in New York State.

So what's the hold up?

▶ The bill has already passed the New York State Assembly. It now needs to pass the New York State Senate—and that's where we have a problem. For the past three years, the bill has stalled in the Senate. Rally+Rise believes that if we organize ourselves and put pressure on elected officials, we can change that in 2018.

We've got plenty of time—why are you making this sound so urgent?

▶ Here's why: The 2018 legislative session ends on June 21, which means that if this bill doesn't pass by then, we have to wait until 2019 to try again. Um, no.

Okay, I'm in! what's the game plan?

Here's how you can make a difference:

1

Look up your State Senator

(that's different than Schumer and Gillibrand, who are Senators on the federal level)—go to nysenate.gov/find-my-senator—and call them to let them know that the RHA is a top priority for you, and that they better support it too. (FYI: All State Senators are up for re-election in 2018.)

2

Call the legislators listed on our Target List

(flip this over to get the list, with a handy guide of what to say).

3

Send postcards to these same legislators

(you can download our rad postcards for free at rallyandrise.org). Even better? Host your own letter-writing party! Email us and we'll get you set up.

4

Join our RHA Street Team.

Going to Governor's Ball, SummerScreen, or even just the farmers' market? You can help us get out the word (because real talk: most people have no idea how far behind New York is when it comes to reproductive rights). It's fun and easy—plus it's kind of the perfect meet-cute opportunity if you're single. Email us and we'll make sure you're good to go.

5

Sign up for our newsletter,

so that you get updates in real time.

We know that passing the RHA is going to come down to the wire, and might require us taking last-minute actions to get it across the finish line. To make sure you don't miss a thing, head to rallyandrise.org to sign up for our email.